

Iraq and Syria: ISIL's Areas of Influence, August 2014 Through November 2016

The frontlines of the self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in much of northern and central Iraq and northern Syria have been pushed back since August 2014. Compared to its peak territorial influence, ISIL probably can no longer operate openly in approximately 46 percent of populated areas it once controlled, although the group is able to conduct attacks in many areas it does not dominate. During November 2016, ISIL lost additional territory to Iraqi forces in Ninawa Governorate. In Syria, ISIL continued to lose territory in November to proregime, Turkish-assisted opposition, and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces in Halab Province, mainly near Al Bab, and in Ar Raqqa Province.

The map depicts ISIL's areas of influence, including its net territorial losses—32,500 to 34,500 square kilometers, or about 61 percent of the territory it had dominated in Iraq and 12,500 to 13,500 square kilometers, or about 28 percent of the territory it dominated in Syria—since August 2014. ISIL probably has a presence and freedom of movement in much of the unpopulated areas depicted on the map, but we cannot determine its level of influence in these areas. Our estimates are subject to change because of the dynamic nature of the conflict.

